

109th Congress. Today, I rise to introduce a version of the Cheyenne River Sioux Equitable Compensation Amendments Act that reflects the positive collaboration from last year and has already enjoyed the approval of the Senate. It is my sincere hope that the House will recognize that work by approving this legislation as soon as possible.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act would finally provide just compensation for the taking of lands over 50 years ago. I urge its swift consideration and passage.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE
NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the First Congressional District of New Jersey, I take this opportunity to enter into the RECORD my position on the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, H.R. 4. First, I would like to congratulate Speaker PELOSI on her outstanding performance over these last few weeks in bringing the real priorities of the American people to the forefront of the 110th Congress's agenda. Reforming the House of Representatives ethics standards, increasing the minimum wage, authorizing Federal research of embryonic stem cells and providing the Secretary of Health and Human Services, HHS, the authority to negotiate drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry are all essential measures for the American people.

On January 12, 2007, I voted in favor of H.R. 4; however, I have some concerns for seniors in my home State of New Jersey. Although I believe Congress should authorize the Secretary of HHS to negotiate drug prices, I believe his authority should be limited so to not disrupt areas in which the Pharmacy Benefit Managers, PBM, are obtaining the best deal for seniors. If our goal is to ensure that all avenues of achieving price discounts are being used to benefit the seniors and individuals with disabilities in the Medicare program, then Congress should allow drug companies and PBMs, who are successfully negotiating affordable drug prices for seniors, to continue to do so without interference from HHS and focus the Secretary's attention on those areas where competition is stymied and prices are artificially inflated by drug companies.

Furthermore, I am concerned about how H.R. 4 will affect various States' prescription drug assistance programs. For example, New Jersey provides drug coverage to over 200,000 low-income seniors through two programs known as the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program or PAAD and Senior Gold. After passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug bill, the State of New Jersey made a decision to make beneficiaries whole by providing a "wrap around" benefit to Medicare Part D. Therefore, PAAD beneficiaries continue to pay only a \$5 co-pay per prescription with no deductible, regardless of the terms of their particular Part D plan. Secondly, because PAAD maintains an open formulary for its beneficiaries, medications not

covered under Part D, are covered by PAAD. It has been argued that if the language of H.R. 4 places a restriction on medications Part D will cover, the cost of the PAAD and the Senior Gold program will increase as the burden to provide even more medications not covered by Medicare falls onto the State. As we move toward conference of the two Chambers, I want to make sure H.R. 4 does not lead to restrictions on access to new medications and gives seniors the best possible price for their medications.

Again, I commend Speaker PELOSI for a job well done and for making affordable prescription drugs for seniors a top priority in the 110th Congress.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM
HOLMAN**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I want to note for the record that a constituent of mine, Jim Holman of McLean, VA, was installed as an Eagle Scout at a ceremony on January 13, 2007. Jim is an outstanding young man who will graduate from Langley High School this June.

As many of my colleagues know, it is not easy making Eagle Scout. It takes a great deal of time, effort and determination, all of which Jim has in abundance. Jim's accomplishment is in a long tradition of scouting in the Holman family. Jim's two older brothers, Luke and Tim, were both Eagle Scouts, and his parents, John and Kay Holman, have played a significant role over the years in scouting.

Again, I want to extend my congratulations to Jim on his wonderful accomplishment.

**IN MEMORIAM OF SENIOR AIRMAN
DANIEL MILLER, JR. OF GALES-
BURG, IL**

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, last week western Illinois lost one of its sons in the war in Iraq. SrA Daniel B. Miller, Jr. was proudly serving in the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Division when a roadside bomb exploded south of Baghdad. Senior Airman Miller made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his bravery, recognize his contributions to this Nation, and extend my condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones.

Senior Airman Miller, 24 years old, was born to Daniel Miller, Sr. of Galesburg and Robin Mahnesmith of Wataga, IL. He was an active member in his church's youth activities, enjoyed fishing and hunting with his friends, and excelled as a student-athlete. He graduated from ROWVA High School in Oneida, IL, in 2001 where he also played varsity football.

In 2004 Senior Airman Miller enlisted in the United States Air Force and completed basic

training in San Antonio. He was then stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, working with the explosive ordnance division. Airman Miller's experience disarming explosives in the military made him interested in joining the bomb squad of a local police department once his military commitment was completed. Often the target of enemy fire as a member of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Airman Miller served with bravery and courage as he scoured Iraq for explosives, ensuring the safety of our ground troops.

As the oldest of five siblings, Senior Airman Miller had an extremely strong bond with his family. According to ROWVA Principal Andy Richmond, Airman Miller often visited the school after he graduated to ask former teachers how his brothers and sisters were doing. From what I've heard from his family and friends, "Dan" was loved by everyone and never asked for praise or recognition. "Dan was everybody's friend. He cared about everybody and was just a fun-loving young man," his father said.

On behalf of the communities in western and central Illinois, I would like to extend my thoughts and sincere prayers to the Miller and Mahnesmith families at this difficult time. Senior Airman Miller's courage in serving his country will not soon be forgotten and a grateful Nation stands humbled.

My heart also goes out to the families and friends of TSgt Timothy Weiner of Florida, and SrA Elizabeth A-Loncki of Delaware, who were also fatally injured in the same roadside bomb attack.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
URGING BANGLADESHI GOVERN-
MENT TO DROP JOURNALIST'S
SEDITION CHARGES**

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, I am re-introducing a resolution with Congresswoman NITA LOWEY (D-NY) calling on the Government of Bangladesh to drop sedition charges pending against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury. Mr. Choudhury faces these charges because of his belief in an interfaith dialogue between Jews and Muslims and articles he published critical of Islamic extremism. Under Bangladeshi law, sedition is a crime punishable by death.

Mr. Choudhury is a journalist in Bangladesh known for his views on expanding dialogue between Muslims and Jews, developing ties with Israel, and criticizing the rise of Islamist parties in Bangladesh. Mr. Choudhury was detained in November 2003 at Zia International Airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on his way to board a flight bound for Tel Aviv, Israel, to participate in the annual Hebrew Writers Conference. Mr. Choudhury's passport was seized, along with considerable sums of money and several personal items. On that same day, police raided his home and newspaper, seizing files, computers, and other valuables.

Since Bangladeshi law prohibits travel to Israel, Mr. Choudhury was first cited for a minor passport violation. He subsequently was charged with sedition, accused of espionage